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ACTION EA-12
INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
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P R 161024Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6461
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CINCPAC
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CINCPAC FOR POLAD
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PINT, KS, US
SUBJ: KOREAN PRESS COVERAGE OF PAK TONG-SON CASE
REF: SEOUL 7835 (DTG 150854Z SEP 77)
SUMMARY: KOREAN PRESS COVERAGE OF PAK AFFAIR, THOUGH SLIGHTLY LOWER IN KEY AND LESS EXTENSIVE, NOTES PARTICULARLY A-G BELL'S HINT OF CONGRESSIONAL CUT-OFF TO AID TO KOREA. ROKG SOURCES CONTINUE TO MAKE CLEAR THEIR HOPE THAT US INVESTIGAOTRS WILL COME TO KOREA. END SUMMARY.
1. ON SEPTEMBER 16, KOREAN VERNACULAR PRESS COVERAGE OF PAK TONG-SON AFFAIR CONTINUED TO DECREASE, AS MORNING PAPERS GAVE IT SECOND, AND AFTERNOON PAPERS THIRD BILLING ON FRONT PAGE. ARTICLES FROM PAPERS' WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENTS APPEARED FOR FIRST TIME, NOTING PARTICULARLY ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL'S NYT INTERVIEW OF SEPTEMBER 14 IN WHICH BELL SAID CONGRESS WOULD HAVE DECIDED WHETHER OR NOT TO CUT MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID TO KOREA, IF DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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(DOJ) FAILS TO SECURE PAK'S RETURN. PAPERS ALSO NOTED BELL HAD SAID POSSIBILITY OF IMMUNITY FOR PAK WAS "VERY FAINT" AND THAT HE WOULD NOT ADVISE SPECIAL COUNSEL JAWORSKI TO VISIT KOREA UNLESS LATTER RECEIVED GUARANTEE WHOLE OF CASE WOULD BE RELEALED. AFTERNOON WIRE ITEM NOTED BELL WAS DRAFTING A SECOND LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO ROKG REQUEST RETURN OF PAK.
2. PAPERS ALSO NOTED STATEMENTS OF WILLIAM HUNDLEY, PAK'S LAWYER, AS QUOTED IN 9/15 WASHINGTON STAR, THAT HE HAD PLAN TO URGE PAK TO MEET US INVISTAGATORS IN THIRD COUNTRY, ALTHOUGH HE HAD NOT GUARANTEES FROM DOJ, JAWORSKI, OR PAK HIMSELF. WIRE SERVICE ARTICLES FROM WASHINGTON NOTED HOUSE ETHICS CMTE CHAIRMAN FLYNT HAD SAID THAT, IF JAWORSKI GOES TO KOREA, TWO COMMITTEE MEMBERS WOULD ACCOMPANY HIM.
3. AFTERNOON PAPERS CARRIED ONLY STORIES WITH LOCAL RESPONSE. SEVERAL QUOTED A GOVERNMENT SOURCE TO EFFECT THAT PAK'S GOING TO A THIRD COUNTRY WOULD BE LEGALLY POSSIBLE, IF THEE WERE AGREEMENT BEFOREHAND AMONG KOREA, US, AND THAT THIRD
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COUNTRY, BUT SOURCE INDICATED THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN ROKG POSITION NOT TO SEND PAK "ANYWHERE" AGAINST HIS WILL. TONGA ILBO DESCRIBED SOME "RELATED OFFICIALS" AS EXPRESSING DOUBT ABOUT PLAN FOR INVESTIGATION OF PAK IN A THIRD COUNTRY, WHILE ANNOUNCING THEIR EXPECTATION THAT "WE CAN REACH AGREEMENT ON PLAN FOR JAWORSKI TO INVESTIGATE IN KOREA". MEDIUM LENGTH ITEM ON FRONT PAGE OF CHUNGANG ILBO QUOTED A "GOVERNMENT SOURCE" AS NOTING THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO REPLY FROM US SINCE FINMIN PAK'S PROPOSAL OF MAXIMUM COOPERATION ON SEPTEMBER 4 AND AS SAYING (RATHER TESTILY), "I CONSIDER OUR APPROVAL OF JAWORSKI'S VISIT AS SUFFICIENT EXPRESSION OF OUR SINCERITY". THIS SOURCE WENT ON TO MAKE CLEAR THAT JAWORSKI COULD NOT INVESTIAGE PAK UNILATERALLY, SUCH AS

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BY SUMMONING HIM TO US EMBASSY OR OTHER PLACE FOR QUESTIONING WITHOUT ROK GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PRESENT. TONGA ILBO ALSO NOTED THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD INSTRUCTED ROKEMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TO REPORT ON BELL'S STATEMENTS ABOUT CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF CUTTING OFF AID.

4. WIRE SERVICE ITEMS IN AFTERNOON PRESS ALSO NOTE THAT HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE HAD REQUESTED WIDE INVESTIGATORY AUTHORITY BE GRANTED JAWORSKI AND OTHER ADVISORS AND ETHICS CHAIRMAN FLYNT HAD ANNOUNCED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WERE IN PROGRESS TO ARRANGE FOR INTERROGATION OF WITNESSES OVERSEAS. SHORT ITEMS QUOTE FORMER JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER KISHI AS SAYING PRESIDENT CARTER HAD SAID HE DIDN'T THINK PAK TONG-SON WAS A BIG PROBLEM, SO HE HAD PLEDGED CONTINUED US MILITARY AID TO ROK REGARDLESS OF THE AFFAIR.

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